



PROPANE BUS FLEET CASE STUDY

ALVIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transportation Center
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Alvin, Texas 77511
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BACKGROUND FACTS

Fifth largest propane school-bus fleet in State of Texas
250 sq. miles, 15,334 students
Transports 1,242,000 students annually
Annual school-bus mileage: 1,962,500 miles
Current annual usage of propane: 206,146 gallons

FLEET FACTS

Total School Buses 128
• 73 Propane
• 81 Diesel

Total Other Vehicles
• 4 Propane
• 4 Diesel
• 97 Gasoline

Refueling facilities: 1
Gallons on-site propane storage: 18,000 gallons
Years using propane: 27 years

PROPANE COST SAVINGS

Annual savings to district through use of propane:
Current price this week (April 28-May 2, 2008) for propane is \$1.79/gal vs. \$3.51/gal for diesel. We also receive a \$0.50/gal. rebate for propane used. In 2006-07, we received \$92,152.00 in rebates. Vehicle maintenance is reduced due to greater brake and tire life with propane, mainly due to the inherent braking of the throttled engine and less weight on the steering axle.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUOTES

The new generation propane engine shows promise of fuel mileage that comes close to the mileage we experience with diesel. A demo propane bus was impressive while doubling the mileage we experienced with current propane powered-buses.

Driver comments: "Wow!". Bus accelerates quicker, shortening the route time for students.

Environmental considerations: These engines require no particulate trap or the related services. The emissions are lower due to the inherently cleaner-burning fuel. The emission system has proved itself for over 30 years of use. The engine has a smaller environmental footprint due to the decreased uses of lubricants and coolant.

--John Ralph



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C A S E S T U D Y



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